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whether in view of the existence of a large number of Sanskrit manuscripts in the Oriental Manuscripts Library and that most of the enquiries received and answered are in respect of Sanskrit manuscripts, the Government have at any time considered the desirability of appointing an officer well-versed in Sanskrit as the head of the Library?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of Hon. Minister for Education) :—" The present rules relating to the appointment of the Curator of the Library provide that the person appointed as Curator should possess among other qualifications, a working knowledge of Sanskrit, and the present incumbent of the post has a working knowledge of Sanskrit. As however, the largest number of manuscripts in the library are Sanskrit Manuscripts, the Government propose to prescribe the following revised qualifications for the post of curator of the library :—

(a) A first or second-class degree of M.A., or B.A. (Hons.) of any British or Indian University in Sanskrit :

Provided that preference shall be given to a candidate who has in addition knowledge of one or more of the following languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Arabic and Persian ; or

(b) If a candidate with the above qualifications is not available, the first or second-class degree of M.A., or B.A., (Hons.) of any British or Indian University in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Arabic, or Persian :

Provided that preference shall be given to a candidate who knows in addition to read and write Sanskrit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are these qualifications to be imposed for fresh recruits or will they be applicable for appointees by transfer as Curator of the Oriental Manuscripts Library?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir. But I believe that this would apply to new recruits."

Seniority of officers in the Madras Educational Service.

* 208 Q.—SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU : Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in settling the seniority of officers in the Madras Educational Service, the period of service other than in the Madras Educational Service Cadre also is taken into consideration ; if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of Hon. Minister for Education) :—" The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The latter part does not arise."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Is the Government aware that there are certain cases like that?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I suggest to the Hon. Member to bring specific cases to the notice of the Government."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Surplus districts in the Province.

27 *Q.*—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of surplus districts in the Province in which rice has been procured for food distribution in 1945–46 and 1946–47;

(*b*) the total quantity of rice procured in each such district in the said years; and

(*c*) the prices at which the said rice was procured per bag of rice of 246 lb.?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Vide Statement[a] placed on the table of the House.

(*c*) Vide Statement[b] placed on the table of the House.

Arrangements for the care of mentally deficient children.

28 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what arrangements exist for the care of mentally deficient children; whether the existing arrangements are insufficient; and what steps are proposed to make up the inadequacy?

A.—At present no separate facilities exist for the care and treatment of mentally defective children. Juvenile and delinquent children come under the Children's Aid Society and Borstal schools. Mentally deficient children who develop disorder of the mind are sent to the Mental Hospital under the Indian Lunacy Act. Those who are recovering from their mental illness are grouped separately and given special training in the Mental Hospital, Madras.

In 1944, the Government accepted a proposal of the Madras Children's Aid Society to run a Special Home to accommodate 20 mentally backward boys who are to be drawn from the Government Certified Schools or committed directed by Courts. It was intended that the Home should be managed by the Society with the help of a special Committee to be appointed by the Society and with this view the Government sanctioned certain grants to the Society towards the employment of staff in the Home and equipment for the boys admitted therein. The Home could not, however, be started as no

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a Printed as Appendix IV on page 314 infra.

b Printed as Appendix V on page 314 infra.